(vi) Siemens

(vii) Foxconn

(viii) Flextronics

(ix) Elcoteq

Post Offices in Punjab

729. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of post offices functioning in Punjab as on date;

(b) the number of new post offices proposed to be opened during the year in the State;

(c) the reasons for not opening them; and

(d) by when they would be opened?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) There are 3951 Post Offices functioning in Punjab as on date.

(b) to (d) In consonance with the policy directives of the 10th Five Year Plan, no plan targets for opening of Post Offices have been allotted to Punjab Postal Circle in the year 2005-06. However, justified Post Offices are opened by relocating those post offices which do not comply with the norms prescribed by the Department. Since this is an ongoing process no time limit can be prescribed for opening of new post offices in this manner.

Changes in Cyber Laws

730. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that his Ministry is of the view that the time has come to carry out amendments to the cyber laws to plug the loopholes with regard to illegal transfer of data and data secrecy;

(b) whether any consultations in this regard with the NASSCOM have been held by his Ministry; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Expert Committee was set up by Department of Information Technology to review the Information Technology Act, 2000 and to suggest amendments in the Act. National Association of Software and Service Companies (NASSCOM) was one of the Members of the Expert Committee.

(c) The major areas considered for providing for amendments/new provisions relate to making the act-technology neutral, explicit provisions for electronic contracts, issues related to child pornography, video voyeurism, liability of network service providers and digital evidence examiner, and the issue related to data privacy and security.

Telephone calls at local call rates

731. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry have any scheme to establish telephonic communication from one part of the country to the other by local call;

(b) if so, the technical details of the proposal/scheme; and

(c) by when the concept is likely to materialize?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) No proposal to establish telephonic communication from one part of the country to the other by local call is under consideration, at present. However, Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) has announced an alternate tariff plan, wherein intra-circle and inter-circle long distance calls are to be charged @ Re. 1 per minute with effect from 01-03-2006.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of (a) above.